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The Advisor

Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

Pointing the way

Joint operation leads
Iraqi soldiers to
car bomb makers

Sept. 17, 2005

MNSTC-I

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Cover: A soldier from the 2nd Mechanized Battalion, 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, shows his troops which houses to search during a cordon and search operation northwest of Baghdad earlier this month.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Matthew Wester

Terror spikes during progress, according to MNF-I senior leader

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Because "democracy means failure for the insurgency" in Iraq, terrorists are employing violence across the country in an effort to derail the democratic process, a senior military Multi-National Force Iraq spokesman told reporters Sept. 15 during a Baghdad news conference.

Terrorists in Iraq are known to ratchet up their activities, like the recent spate of deadly car bombings in Baghdad, when specific progress is being made in remaking Iraq into a free and democratic nation, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch explained.

"These spikes of violence are predictable around the times that highlight progress towards democracy," Lynch said. The Iraqi people will vote on adopting their newly drafted constitution during an Oct. 15 referendum, with new national elections slated for December.

Bombings in Iraq's capital city this week killed and wounded scores of citizens, Lynch noted. Such violence is "unfortunate," he said. "We mourn the loss of life of every innocent civilian that's been killed in these great tragedies," he added, "and our prayers and our hearts go out to them, their families and friends."

However, the "peaks of violence" that target innocent Iraqi civilians "has happened in the past, is happening

now, and will happen in the future," the general noted.

Victory over terrorists in Iraq "will be won over time by the Iraqi people, the Iraqi government, and the Iraqi security forces," Lynch said. Counter-insurgency operations historically last 10 years, he added.

Lynch said much progress is being made against the insurgency in Iraq. Insurgents can't establish and maintain safe havens within the country, nor have they stopped recruiting for the new Iraqi Security Forces that now number 190,000 trained and equipped soldiers and police.

The terrorists "have zero effect" militarily against Iraqi, U.S. and Coalition security forces, Lynch observed. Therefore, they take out their rage and frustration "on innocent civilians," he said.

Lynch said there is a need for "heightened awareness" for possible terrorist attacks in Iraq during the referendum and the December elections.

It's also imperative for U.S., Iraqi and Coalition officials to continue to work closely with an Iraqi citizenry that is increasingly eager to identify terrorists hiding among the general population, Lynch said.

"The Iraqi people want to get the insurgency out of Iraq," Lynch explained, "so they continue in the democratic process and have a safe and secure environment."

"Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it good and hard."

— H.L. Mencken (1880-1956)

Iraqi-U.S. search yields car bomb

By U.S. Army Spc. Matthew Wester
1st Armored Division Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq – Iraqi soldiers caught members of a terrorist cell in the act of making a car bomb earlier this month during a joint operation with Coalition forces.

The Iraqi soldiers are members of the 2nd Mechanized Battalion, 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division. They teamed up with Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, nicknamed "Thunderbolt," to cordon and search an area northwest of Baghdad that has been a flashpoint of terrorist activity.

The 3rd Infantry Division's Aviation Brigade provided air support during the search.



U.S. Army Spcs. Billy Allen (left) and Allen Hill search a scrap pile behind a home during Operation Royalty.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kevin Bromley

"The operation was in an area known as the 'Circle of Death' in the Thunderbolt area of operations where five major routes come together," said U.S. Army Maj. Steve Lutsky, operations officer for the armor regiment. "We've had intelligence reports of terrorist activity plus we've had several improvised explosive devices in the area."

The main goal of the mission, called "Operation Royalty," was to break up two terrorist cells in the village, said Lutsky.

The operation paid off when Iraqi soldiers caught one group of terrorists red-handed as they were putting the finishing touches on a car modified to

be used in a suicide attack. The soldiers discovered the men after walking down a driveway leading to a house. When the men saw the soldiers, they tried to push the car, Lutsky said.

The men ran away from the Iraqi soldiers, but were soon apprehended.

U.S. Army Capt. Bryan Cecrle, commander of Thunderbolt's Company A, saw the action unfold first-hand during his first major operation in charge of a tank company.

"I was able to get up on the roof of a house and observe the search along the edge of the canal for the two individuals who fled," he said.

Cecrle said the success of Iraqi soldiers during the mission was part of a trend he has noticed since he worked alongside them in Mahmudiyah, south of Baghdad. He's seen exponential growth in their abilities, Cecrle said.

"Every time you show them something, they grab that, take it as their own and continue on," he said. "It's amazing to watch them developing as they go."

The vehicle contained at least 500 pounds of ordnance, according to U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Josh Z. Liles, the 47th Ordnance Company's non-commissioned officer in charge of the explosive ordnance disposal team that destroyed the car at the site. After the detonation, Soldiers verified the car contained five propane tanks, eight 130mm



A soldier from the 2nd Mechanized Battalion, 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division provides security during a cordon and search operation northwest of Baghdad.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Matthew Wester

high-explosive shells and a large number of anti-aircraft rounds.

"If it hit a convoy, it could have destroyed at least one Humvee and killed anyone within 50 meters," Liles said.

The detonation of the car bomb left a 25-foot by 15-foot crater, Lutsky said.

"We know this mission was successful and we saved lives," Lutsky said.



An Iraqi Army soldier provides tactical guidance to his fellow soldiers during Operation Royalty earlier this month while an AH-64 Apache helicopter provides air cover.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kevin Bromley



Protecting Habbaniyah

When it comes to leading base defense efforts, one Air Force officer proves gender is moot

By Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

HABBANIYAH, Iraq – Before U.S. Air Force Capt. Jutta Cortes arrived at the Iraqi Army's Habbaniyah military base in June, someone told her she was heading for the most rewarding assignment of her military career.

As the base defense unit (BDU) commander, Cortes was immediately consumed with the business of protecting the base's east camp and leading her four-person team of U.S. Air Force security specialists in training their Iraqi charges. Eighteen hour-plus days were the norm. The team lacked an assigned interpreter. The lone Iraqi officer assigned to the camp's fledgling security force of 93 Iraqi soldiers quit, saying

he would not work with a woman.

"I thought he was kidding," laughs Cortes, recalling the incident. "But he left and we haven't seen him since."

Rewarding? Hardly, Cortes thought.

A little more than three months later, she's coming around. The days are still long and the team is still waiting for another Iraqi officer to lead the soldiers, but at least they've been able to borrow interpreters from the base support unit and the Iraqi soldiers they've been training are showing signs of progress. The team ex-

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Base defense

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panded this week with the arrival of four more U.S. Air Force security specialists.

Mortar attacks are common and sometimes, constant. Cortes gets around the base in a Chevy LUV pick-up truck, pointing out locations of the dozens of mortars that have hit since her arrival. There was the one that landed just a couple hundred feet from the team's living quarters, and another that blew out the windows of the new dining facility just a couple weeks ago. The remodeling work on what will be the east camp detention facility was halted not long ago by a mortar attack that killed five and injured more than a dozen.

Cortes, 37, was working in law enforcement and nuclear security at Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming before deploying for a year-long tour here. Her entire 18-year career — including 14 ½ years as an enlisted airman — has been in security and law enforcement.

She's seen more death and destruction in the last three months than in all the years she's been in the Air Force.

"Everything that happens here is no joke, for real," Cortes says.

Being a woman hasn't held her back from doing what needs to be done with the Iraqi soldiers, Cortes says. She remem-



U.S. Air Force Capt. Jutta Cortes confers with Iraqi soldiers assigned to Habbaniyah's base defense unit during a shift change at a base entry point.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

bers hearing that U.S. or Coalition women should not touch Iraqi men, that it would be considered disrespectful.

"That went out the window right away," Cortes says. "When you don't speak each other's language, you have to use a lot of hand signals. And sometimes, I just had to grab them and point them in the direction I wanted them to go."

The soldiers didn't seem to mind, in fact, many appeared grateful for the guidance.

"A lot of these kids aren't even 18 yet," Cortes says. "They're happy to have someone tell them what to do."

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Scott Sims noticed some Iraqis were initially hesitant to deal directly with Cortes, going to him with questions instead. He sent them back to Cortes, reminding them that she was the one in charge.

Gender has seemingly turned into a moot issue, Sims and others on the team have noticed. When the team goes outside the wire to check on troops or accompany them on patrols, Cortes more often than not is leading the way.

"There are a lot of cloudy lines here about what a woman's role is," Sims says. "From everything I've seen out here, the women are doing everything the men are doing."

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Steven Amundson, another BDU team member, believes it doesn't matter one way or the other that Cortes is a woman. What matters is that the job gets done, he says.

Still, he sees some advantages to Cortes' gender. Because there aren't many women on the base, people tend to gravitate to Cortes, Amundson says.

"She's very good at politicking and making connections that have benefited us," Amundson says.

The team — which also includes U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Stephen Veeder — has made plenty of tangible strides at the base, besides the work that's been done in training the Iraqi security soldiers.



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Steven Amundson discusses personnel issues with an Iraqi warrant officer on the patio of the base defense unit Military Training Team's quarters. A sign at the door proclaims "Home is where the Air Force sends you."

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

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In it's early days, Habbaniyah was an oasis for British RAF

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

HABBANIYAH, Iraq – In its heyday, Camp Habbaniyah was a bustling base for the British Royal Air Force. With tree-lined roads, gardens and green lawns, it was a desert oasis for thousands of personnel and their families stationed there.

Construction on the base began in 1934 and ended in 1937. It was a town unto itself, boasting family housing and amenities such as a swimming pool, indoor and outdoor movie theaters, a Catholic church, golf course, and a race track.

Iraqi forces eventually took control of the base in 1955; the RAF pulled out completely four years later.

When U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nathan Parsons arrived in mid-February as

part of a four-person base support unit (BSU) adviser team, the only hint of the base's former glory was in the towering willow-type trees lining the narrow paved roads. Everything else was in shambles.



A cemetery sits in ruins on the outskirts of the base's east camp.
Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell



Construction to refurbish buildings on Habbaniyah's east camp — including living quarters — is ongoing. Many of the British Royal Air Force personnel assigned to the base in the 1930s-1950s had family members living with them.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Parsons and the team, led then by U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Jeff Davis, were tasked with getting the east camp prepared for Iraqi Army units. They worked with a 17-person Iraqi advance team of soldiers, but without vehicles, phones or computers, progress was slow, Parsons recalled.

"We'd walk or run P.T. over to the west camp (the Coalition side) to use

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When U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nathan Parsons arrived at east camp in mid-February, he remembers meager perimeter security.

"There was a 4-foot Hesco barrier with a single C-wire," Parsons recalls. "That was all that separated us from the rest of the world."

The perimeter security has been beefed up considerably, to include a 15-foot high berm. Iraqi soldiers man guard towers 24-hours-a-day.

With no dedicated facilities for training, the team improvises. They borrowed a projector and used a lap top computer to conduct classes on running an entry control point, manning guard towers, patrols and a quick reaction force in a tent once used as the dining facility.

The team initially accompanied Iraqi soldiers on patrols; now they offer some assistance but leave the bulk of the patrolling to the Iraqis. A two-man team from a U.S. Marine Corps special operations training group – Gunnery Sgt. Hugo Aguilar and Sgt. James Grace Jr. – has assisted the team in that area by teaching specialized patrol classes to small groups of soldiers.

They also sent five soldiers to a two-week course on ad-

vanced weapons training and then trained them to take over the firing range. Amundson says the team still assists with scheduling time on the range, but everything else is done by the Iraqis.

For Parsons, the difference in base security now compared to when he arrived is like night and day.

"I was always on edge at night," Parsons says. "But they've done a great job. I sleep very well at night."

Cortes can see and appreciate the rewards – big and small – in this assignment. Sometimes it's having a good laugh at the humorous differences in how things are done in the U.S. versus Iraq. She still smiles at the memory of an Iraqi colonel hauling a garbage bag full of cash out to the base to pay soldiers their salaries.

The turning point in starting to appreciate the job was in July, though, when she and her team got called out in the middle of the night to assist with a no-notice mission. They were to help relocate a family that had been threatened by insurgents. In the course of the night, she spent time with the family, which included three young children and an elderly father. They gave them food, water and toys for the children before escorting them safely away from the base.

"With all of the stress that had been going on before that, being a part of that made it all worth while," Cortes says.

Iraqi soldiers graduate from leadership development course

By U.S. Army 1st Lt. Chad Lawrence

71st Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs

CAMP JUSTICE, Iraq – The Iraqi Army added a dozen men to the ranks of its non-commissioned officer corps with their graduation from the Iraqi Primary Leadership Development Course this month.

This was the first class taught entirely by Iraqi Army instructors. Previously, U.S. Army NCOs helped instruct the course.

Those in the audience at the Sept. 3 graduation ceremony included representatives from 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division; and 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry, and 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment – both from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

“Everyone in attendance could see the pride and determination etched on each soldier’s face as he walked across the stage bordered by the Iraqi flag,” said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class William Torres. “These soldiers are continuing the proud course set by all the NCOs before them – soldiers from around the world leading from the front. These men are the backbone of this army.”

“We have trained our NCOs to lead our soldiers after receiving valuable information from the U.S. Army on how to train our people,” said Iraqi Sgt. 1st Class Raad, senior NCO for the Iraqi Army PLDC Academy. “We’ve learned how to take care of our soldiers and how to make our program as efficient as we can.”

“We are making history here,” said U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Rodolfo Beltran, of the 71st Cavalry. “The NCO is the foundation of the U.S. Army and the Iraqi soldiers are beginning to realize that. The Iraqis conduct business the way you would run a household family. They take each other in and care for each other. The senior leadership here can now rely on NCOs to guide their soldiers on a more personal level.”

Habbaniyah

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the internet on their MWR (morale, welfare and recreation) computers and to take showers,” Parsons said. “We really had to build from scratch. But it was exciting in a way, what we said, went.”

Parsons is the only remaining mem-

ber of the first BSU. There are now 14 members of the base support unit adviser team, led by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ed Brown. The number of Iraqi Intervention Force soldiers stationed there is close to 3,000.

As an Army medic, Parsons expected to share his medical knowledge and expertise with Iraqi soldiers. But with only four people jump starting the

base, he found himself doing everything but teaching for the first few months. He was in charge of the dining facility for about three months.

Parsons was able to work on a proposal to build an Iraqi Army medical clinic. It’s scheduled to be complete in January. His tour ends in December.

Restrict access to EOD only.



STAY ALIVE

0034

IEDs KILL

SIB soldiers graduate from individual enlisted training

116th BCT Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq – Approximately 1,080 enlistees from four separate battalions assigned to defend Iraq's infrastructure graduated from individual enlisted training (IET) earlier this month at the Iraqi Army's K1 training facility near Kirkuk.

The graduates comprised four platoons from the Iraqi Army's 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 18th Strategic Infrastructure Battalions. The ceremony attracted an impressive list of distinguished guests from both Iraqi and Coalition forces, including the 4th

Iraqi Army Division Commander Lt. Gen. Aziz Abdul Al Rahman; the 2nd Brigade Commander Maj. Gen. Anwar Hamed



A formation bearing the Iraqi colors passes in review before Iraqi Army commanding officers during an individual enlisted training graduation ceremony at the K1 training center near Kirkuk.

Photo from 116th BCT Public Affairs

Amin, the 2nd Brigade Executive Officer Brig. Gen. Ayad Mohammed Saleh and Col. Jasim Ali Khalil, the K1 Training Center commander.

Coalition guests included the 116th Brigade Combat Team Commander, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Russell Johnson, Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery commander. Kirkuk Provincial Gov. Abdulrahman Mustafa also attended and personally recognized the top graduate.

"This ceremony represents a milestone in the Iraqi Army's journey to becoming a fully trained and capable force," said Gayhart. "As the Iraqi forces continue to fill their ranks with trained soldiers, they are more prepared to defend the new freedoms all Iraqis enjoy."

The hour-long ceremony included music by an Iraqi Army band, readings from the Koran, a speech by Training Center Commander Iraqi Col. Khalil, a pass in review, passing of the colors and awards for the top 10 graduates.

Helping prepare the Iraqi Army to take full responsibility for the security and stability of the region is part of the 116th BCT's mission while deployed in north central Iraq. The unit's mission also includes assisting Iraq's new government, supporting economic development and facilitating communications.

Strategic Infrastructure Battalion training transfers to Iraqis

By U.S. Army Capt. Tom Earnhardt
22d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BALAD, Iraq – Until now, the training of Iraq's Strategic Infrastructure Battalion (SIB) soldiers was the responsibility of Coalition Forces.

But in Balad, the torch is being passed to Iraqi counterparts. U.S. Soldiers of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team are handing over the training and equipping of the 10th SIB to 3rd Battalion, 30th Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division.

The SIBs are charged with protecting Iraq's vulnerable oil pipelines from sabotage and terrorism. Until this week, Troop B of the 5th Battalion's 2nd Platoon directed and executed 10th Battalion's training. Now, the Iraqi soldiers are stepping up and taking the reins.

"The intent here is to strengthen these soldiers while they perform this vital service," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Alzin Lewis, officer in charge of SIB training for 5th Battalion. "We've put them through [basic rifle marksmanship], first aid, patrolling and basic security tasks and, overall, they've performed well. They liked the fact that we got down with them and worked them through the process."

The concurrent training of the 10th SIB began outside Balad about four months ago. The companies of 10th Battalion rotated from duty on the pipeline into a four-week-long intensive training designed by the 5th Battalion to better prepare them for success in protecting Iraq's oil. The weeks of training consisted of a set of basic soldier skills passed from Coalition soldiers to the Iraqis of the 10th Battalion.

The Iraqi trainers stepped in this week

without missing a beat, commanding their classes with a teaching savvy that belies their training and experience, said Lewis. The battalion's medics delivered basic lifesaving classes with enthusiasm and pride, he added.

"I really think we've turned the corner here," said Iraqi 1st Lt. Shoqutt. "At first, the whole country didn't take us seriously; they didn't have confidence in us. Now, things are different; our guys are hungry to demonstrate their skill and show the world."

Shoqutt, a Balad native, said he takes pride in the ability of his troops to serve as trainers.

"We've had the advantage of time and resource as (the) Americans brought us along and we must use what we've learned to defend ourselves and teach the rest the right things," he said.

Coalition Task Force injects realism into PHC training

By U.S. Army Spc. Adam Phelps
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TIKRIT, Iraq – Infantrymen with the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry are training members of Iraq's Provincial High Crimes (PHC) unit to properly search buildings for high-value targets.

Iraqi and Coalition leaders are encouraged with the progress being made.

"We will control everything here if we continue to get more training and more information on how to do the missions and do our job the right way," said Iraqi Capt. Ishmael, PHC unit commander.

"I think they're getting there," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Young, a police liaison with Company A, Task Force 1-112. "The motivation is there with a lot of the Iraqis. For now, they still need our help, but in time, I believe they will function quite well."

The Task Force training simulates real missions the PHC officers may one day find themselves on.

"Their missions are to conduct raids for high-value targets – people wanted by Coalition and Iraqi forces," Young said. "This prepares them to go out and conduct these missions more safely and be more effective to obtain their mission."

Iraqi forces find the training useful in obtaining their objectives, Ishmael said.

"The training is very useful for us because we get more information on how to treat the people and on how to deal with the terrorists and also how to deal with problems around our sector and our community," he said.

Young said one of the reasons the Task Force is successful with their training is their work in the civilian world.

"One thing that really helps is I'm a civilian police officer at home and I



Members of the Provincial High Crimes unit practice clearing a building during training conducted by Infantrymen with the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry in Tikrit, Iraq. The Task Force uses realistic scenarios to better prepare PHC unit members for missions, which can involve searching buildings for high-value targets. In time, the Task Force will turn the training over to Iraqi instructors.

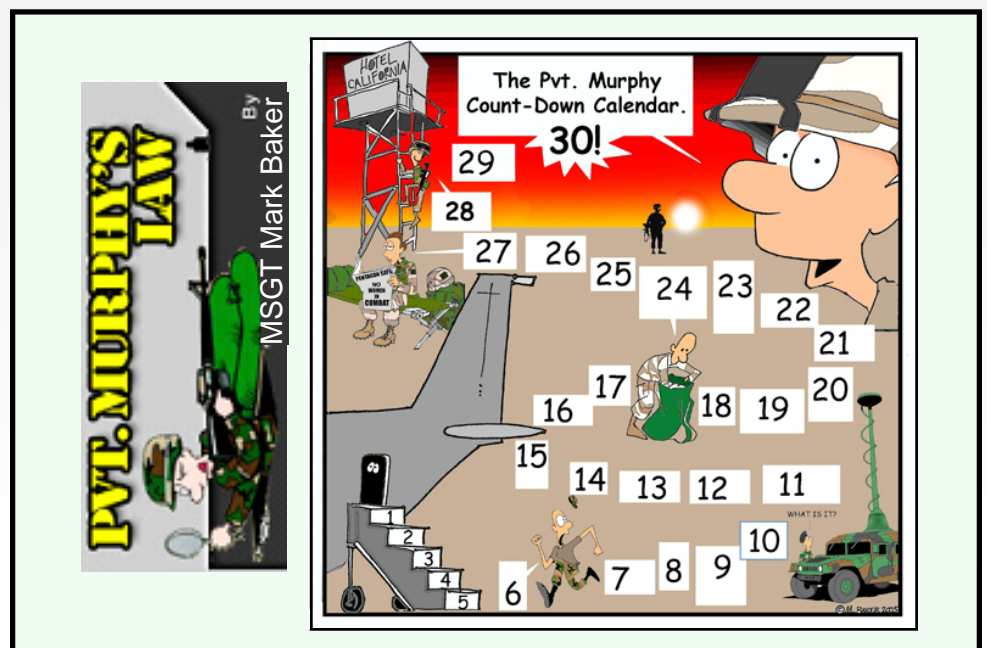
Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Adam Phelps

introduce myself that way to these guys, so I think they find that common bond in policemen all over the world," he said. "They understand I'm here to help a brother in blue. They are very receptive to that rather than a normal Coalition Soldier."

This training will also help Iraqi forces train themselves and spread what

they have learned, Muhammed said.

"The training helps me out a lot because by this I'll be able to give the training to my guys anytime I want," he said. "I will be able to train other people from other departments and that will help us out a lot to control our situation."



Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi Police capture AIF

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police apprehended two insurgents Sept. 10 after coming under small arms fire.

The two assailants were wounded when police returned fire. They were transported to a medical facility for treatment and later detained. No police were injured in the incident.

Police repel station attack

MOSUL – Iraqi Police returned fire when their station was attacked Sept. 10, killing one insurgent and wounding another.

Police officers were unable to locate the wounded suspect. No police casualties were reported.

Iraqi Police detain AIF suspects

SUWAYRA – Iraqi Police detained nine people suspected of terrorist activities during operations Sept. 10. Police also seized four cars during the incident.

Iraqi Security Forces clear IED

BAQUBAH – Iraqi Security Forces found and cleared an improvised explosive device Sept. 11. Iraqi Police and U.S. Army personnel secured the area after the discovery, while an Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team neutralized the device, which consisted of a 155 mm artillery round with an attached timing device.

Joint forces kill insurgent

HIT – Iraqi Army and Coalition troops engaged a group of suspected insurgents carrying a mortar tube Sept. 12, killing one and scattering the rest.

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force and Coalition forces exchanged gunfire with the five military-aged males.

Suspect bomber detained

NASSER WA SALAM – Troops from the 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force, working with Coalition Forces, detained a man suspected of assaulting a woman after a brief pursuit Sept. 13.

The soldiers saw a man running to a vehicle parked near a site where the troops had discovered unexploded ordnance, about six kilometers northwest of Nasser Wa Salam. The man fled in a hasty and erratic manner, with the soldiers in pursuit. They chased the man until he stopped and ran into a residence, where they heard a woman screaming inside.

Inside, the soldiers found a woman with head injuries, who was later identified as the man's mother-in-law. She told the soldiers the man was a terrorist and was putting bombs in the roads.

The man was taken into custody; the soldiers took the woman to a local hospital where she was treated for a sus-

pected skull fracture.

Soldiers detain suspected leader

SAQLAWIYAH – Iraqi troops from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force detained a suspected insurgent Sept. 13, during a combined operation with Coalition forces.

Iraqi Army and U.S. Marines conducted a combined dismounted cordon and knock operation and detained a man identified as the leader of a known insurgent cell in the Saqlawiyah-Fallujah area. He was taken into custody for further questioning about local terrorist attacks.

ISF detain men, find weapons

RAMADI – Iraqi and Coalition forces detained two suspected insurgents during a Sept. 14 patrol.

Troops from 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force and U.S. Army Soldiers detained two men engaged in suspicious activity during a combined combat patrol. The soldiers found one improvised explosive device, two AK-47 rifles and one machine gun while searching the men's residence.

Did you know?

Happy Birthday

U.S. Air Force

The Department of the Air Force was born Sept. 18, 1947 when the first Secretary of the Air Force, W. Stuart Symington was sworn in and the U.S. Army transferred over all air activities.

Air Force News Service

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Joint forces secure bomb sites

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers responded to several terrorist car bomb attacks in various districts of the capitol city Sept. 15, though the number of explosions and casualties was considerably less than the previous day's tally.

The day's first suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) detonated at 7:55 a.m. in south Baghdad, causing multiple deaths and injuries among Iraqi civilians and Iraqi Police. Task Force Baghdad units responded to assist Iraqi Security Forces in securing the site and evacuating the wounded.

A Task Force Baghdad patrol came under attack at 8:10 a.m. in west Baghdad when it stopped to clear debris from the road and started taking small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenade fire before being attacked by a suicide VBIED. The Soldiers engaged the car as it approached, causing it to detonate prematurely. Following the blast, the Soldiers came under fire again from small arms and RPGs before eventually repelling the terrorists.

At 11 a.m., another Task Force Baghdad patrol in east Baghdad was attacked by a suicide car bomber, wounding three Soldiers and one civilian interpreter. The attack also caused several casualties among Iraqi civilians. A Task Force Baghdad explosive ordnance disposal team later determined the car carried seven 155-millimeter rounds.

At 12:30 p.m., several Iraqi Police were killed when a police checkpoint was attacked by two VBIEDs and an improvised explosive device that had been buried in the road. When other police officers at the checkpoint started receiving small-arms fire, Task Force Baghdad aviation assets responded to assist them in defeating the terrorists and securing the site. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

Operation nets suspects

ABU GHRAIB – Iraqi and Coalition forces detained 10 men Sept. 11 in connection with anti-Iraq and anti-Coalition activities in the area. When the combined forces searched the residences of the men, they found materials used to make improvised explosive devices. The men were detained for questioning.

Searches produce weapons

MOSUL – Fourteen men and numerous weapons and explosives were found during a Sept. 11 combined operation involving the 2nd Iraqi Army Division and Coalition forces.

A search of several houses produced an automatic rifle, six AK-47 rifles, several magazines, materials used to make improvised explosive devices and two 122mm artillery rounds. (Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force)

Tip leads to cache

KHIDIR JIAH – Acting on information from a local source, soldiers with the 2nd Iraqi Army Division and Coalition forces located a cache containing 37 155mm artillery rounds Sept.

Looking back

One year ago in Iraq

A suicide car bomb detonated Sept. 17, 2004 in front of a National Guard headquarters in the Iraqi northern city of Kirkuk, killing 19 people and wounding 67 others, including guardsmen and recruits, said Iraqi officials.

Iraqi police said a car was speeding toward the gate in front of the headquarters and that guardsmen fired on the vehicle before it detonated.

The bombing was the deadliest in a series of attacks throughout the day.

Elsewhere, a roadside bomb missed its apparent target of a U.S. convoy in the busy commercial Baghdad district of Karrada and hit a private car, which caught fire after the bomb detonated, an Iraqi Interior Ministry representative said.

Two U.S. Soldiers were also killed in the second of two explosions on a road to the Baghdad International Airport. Eleven U.S. service members were also wounded by the two car bombs, said U.S. military officials.

10. An explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the cache. (Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force)

Joint operation nets nine

SHWAUYRAH – The 8th Iraqi Army Division, Iraqi Police and Coalition forces captured nine targeted suspects during a three-day operation. The men were wanted on charges including murder, larceny, and running illegal checkpoints. (Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force)

'Flea Flicker' sweeps area

ZAFARANIYA – U.S. and Iraqi forces searched houses and fields during Operation Flea Flicker Sept. 14.

The operation – conducted by Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and the Iraqi Public Order Brigade – was designed to disrupt anti-Iraq forces' activity in the area in preparation for the Oct. 15 constitutional referendum.

The joint force swept through neighborhoods during the early-morning mission, searching for illegal weapons, propaganda and other contraband.

Troops discovered several minor weapons violations and detained a man with a 60mm mortar round in a plastic bag under his bed. (2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi Army trains Iraqi Police

BAQUBAH – Soldiers of the 4th Iraqi Army Battalion trained with members of the Iraqi police emphasizing weapons training and first aid here Sept. 12. This particular session also focused on room-clearing techniques and close quarters combat. Iraqi trainers, with minimal input from Coalition Forces, directed the training. The training developed teamwork and established common tactics and practices, so that in real world situations the reactions will be uniform and automatic. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Soldiers take down possible cell

BAGHDAD – Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 9th Mechanized Iraqi Army Division were returning from a patrol early Sept. 11 when they were attacked by terrorists using a roadside bomb.

The Iraqi soldiers noticed suspicious visual signals coming from a nearby house. Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 13th Armored Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division were dispatched to help cordon the area and search the house.

The Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers questioned several military-aged men in the home and found three AK-47 rifles, 200 rounds of ammunition, anti-Iraq forces propaganda and a possible bomb-triggering device.

The 13 suspected terrorists were detained for further questioning. (1st Armored Division Public Affairs)

Forces respond to bomb attacks

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. Soldiers continued to respond to car bomb attacks in various districts of the city Sept. 14.

Terrorists targeted an Iraqi Police patrol with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in north Baghdad around 12:20 p.m., causing multiple casualties.

Ten minutes later, a U.S. patrol was hit by a car bomb in central Baghdad. Two U.S. Soldiers were injured in the attack. At 1:10 p.m., another U.S. patrol was attacked with a car bomb in south Baghdad. One Soldier was wounded in the incident. A U.S. explosive ordnance disposal team later discovered four 130mm projectiles in the vehicle.

At 1:25 p.m., another car bomb targeted an Iraqi Police checkpoint in central Baghdad, causing multiple civilian casualties. While en route to the scene of that car bomb, a U.S. explosive ordnance disposal team was attacked by another car bomb at 2:10 p.m. Five U.S. Soldiers were wounded in the blast. Another U.S. unit called to help secure Iraqi Police station came under attack from small-arms fire, grenades and mortars.

Earlier in the day, Iraqi and U.S. forces responded to six different car bomb attacks that killed multiple Iraqi civilians and wounded two U.S. Soldiers and dozens of Iraqi civilians. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

Soldiers repel attack

MOSUL – Soldiers with the 2nd Iraqi Army Division and Coalition forces were attacked by anti-Iraq forces during a

cordon and search mission Sept. 10.

Attacked by small arms fire, the soldiers went after the enemy, detaining four suspects. The soldiers, who were backed up by additional forces, also seized several rifles and a projectile from a rocket propelled grenade launcher. (Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force)

Suspected murderer in custody

BALAD – The 4th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition forces captured five men suspected of terrorist activities during a joint operation Sept. 9. One of the men is believed to have murdered the Ishaki city council president.

The soldiers also confiscated two automatic rifles and a cache of 155mm rounds, which were destroyed. (Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force)

Three detained on murder charges

MAHMUDIYA – Three men wanted for several murders and numerous attacks on Iraqi and Coalition forces were detained during a joint raid Sept. 9 by Iraqi Police and U.S. Soldiers.

Five other men suspected of terrorist activities were also detained and several automatic rifles confiscated. (Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force)

Joint forces round up 94 terrorists

TAL AFAR – Iraqi Army soldiers and Multi-National forces from Task Force Freedom moved into their 11th day of Operation Restoring Rights by capturing 94 terrorists and killing one in Tal Afar Sept. 13.

The operation has resulted in 341 terrorists captured and 22 caches seized, including six on Monday. The operation is designed to provide stable security in the city of Tal Afar. Operations to date have been an overwhelming success, officials said. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

Iraqi equipment roll-up

A look at some of the equipment delivered to Iraqi Security Forces in the past week

Ammunition.....	1.6 million rounds
Weapons.....	592
Body armor.....	250
Ambulances.....	40
2 1/2-Ton trucks.....	31